



Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan

Attack Battery, 1-62 ADA

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FAMILY READINESS GROUP NEWSLETTER, VOL I

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THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND INFORMATION

Commander's Corner

Aloha to all our families and friends! It is a huge honor for me to be writing this note to all of you in our first full month of deployment in Afghanistan, and our first monthly newsletter!

The intent of this newsletter is four-fold. First, it is an opportunity for the leadership to share news with the families of what is going on in the platoons – promotions, awards, important dates, and more. Second, it gives Soldiers an opportunity to share pictures, and input as well. Third, we will put out command information to keep all of us informed on any information related to our mission and deployment that can be put out in a general format as this. Finally, we will dedicate a space to those sponsors and adopted ATTACK Battery family members that have been so generous and kind to send gifts and packages to all of us over the past month. Now – on to business.

As the Battery arrives 100% in Afghanistan, each platoon and every Soldier has been extremely busy. I have already sent a number of reports home on all the different missions ATTACK Battery has undertaken. Providing an air picture to the Brigade Combat Team, convoy security missions to keep local roads safe for travel, vehicle check points to ensure travelers are safe, perimeter security to keep our forward bases safe, ground security elements for tactical intelligence teams, liaisons to the French Special Forces, and liaisons to the United Nations. In every instance, your Soldiers are doing an outstanding job. They are serving with honor, they are creating hope, they are building

trust, they are making the vision of enduring security for Afghanistan a reality – one day at a time.

Besides all the great things that our Soldiers are doing and are a part of, we have had the honor to welcome a growing number of “extended” ATTACK Battery family members. These family members come from a growing list of States from across the mainland and are apart of something I never expected, imagined, or dreamed. Folks from California, Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, North Carolina, West Virginia, Louisiana, Michigan, and our Ohana in Hawaii have become apart of a support network that has provided over 60 boxes, packages and letters in just the month of May – sending things like all sorts of personal hygiene items, movies, magazines, books, candy, coffee, cookies, chips, crackers, footballs, volleyballs, and even a big box of beanie babies to our Soldiers.

The point to all this is simple. Ms. Lisa Bodkin of West Virginia, a senior in high school, stated that she thought we were “true heroes.” I will tell you that there are many heroes over here, and although there are daily examples and expressions of courage, duty, honor, and ALL the Army Values among our Troops, we witness the same from YOU – Family Members and Supporters of ATTACK Battery. You are true heroes and patriots as well, and we thank you. I hope to continue our dialogue and interaction over the course of the next year. This is a marathon, not a sprint. God bless all of you! Pray for us and pray for the continuing rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. It is a country of a proud and fierce people that deserve enduring security, freedom, and peace.

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HQ Platoon
1LT James Fe'a-Fiame

Alo-o-o-oha! from Afghanistan to all friends and family back in the U.S. During our first month of deployment we have found ourselves gainfully employed in numerous tasks in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-5. Our transition with our sister battalion A/3-62 ADA from Ft. Drum, N.Y. could not have been any more effortless. The transfer of authority between the “Warrior Brigade” and the “Bronco Brigade” took place earlier this month on 5 May.

As for the “Wolfpack” Platoon we are slowly adjusting to time zone differences, weather acclimation, and 3rd Brigade's battle rhythm. Currently, the biggest obstacle we face is the rising temperature as we head closer into the summer months.

Coming from Hawaii, known for some of the worlds' greatest beaches, Afghanistan accommodates 3rd Brigade with the largest beach known to any 25th ID soldier. The only problem is there's no water.

Although away from the luxuries that the islands provide, some of us have brought comfort items that remind us of the Great Aloha State. Personally, nothing

says Aloha more than a BBQ on the hot sands of Afghanistan. And who can forget spam and rice. You better not leave home without it; I didn't!

Moral is high despite the separation from our loved ones. Pictures and letters fill the walls of individual sleep tents, which help ease the distance. Internet and phones are available through the MWR tent when soldiers just want to hear a familiar voice.

I'd just like to extend a big Mahalo (Hawaiian for "Thank You") to our platoon sponsors for their thoughtfulness in the care packages that we've received. Thank you very much. Until next month, "Wolfpack!!"

Featured Soldier of the Month **SPC Jason Roseburgh:**

This daring soldier is our "Featured Soldier" for the month of May. Earlier this week, SPC Roseburgh voluntarily deployed forward to Orgun-E on a search & rescue mission to retrieve a 27" television. (SPC Roseburgh was actually sent to troubleshoot communications equipment in support of 2nd PLT) He described this feat as "vital" to the enhancement of his PS-2 (codename for playstation-2) gaming skills while here in country.

The mission kicked off on the 14th as SPC Roseburgh climbed aboard a CH-47 helicopter bound for Orgun-E. After enduring the nauseous 2hr flight SPC Roseburgh began his journey in search of the television. During his four day ordeal the brave soldier battled through unimaginable events – one being the task of using the outhouses there in Shkin. "The toughest part about it was the muscle failure you go through from hovering over the seat," he humbly added.

SPC Roseburgh returned on the 18th, now the proud owner of a 27" RCA television. When asked, "Looking back at what you had to go through, if you could do it all over again, would you?" With a smile and a twinkle in his eyes SPC Roseburgh replied, "Anything to serve my country proud."

For immeasurable bravery and selfless service we recognize SPC Roseburgh as our "Soldier of Misfortune."



1st Platoon
1LT Jeff Hazard

Dear Family, Friends, and Loved Ones:

Aloha from the members of 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, 1-62 ADA. This marks the two-week line of our deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. So far everyone has adjusted to the environment very well, especially now since we have the TV and Playstation 2 up and running. Right now we are still in the process of settling down in our area and slowly making improvements to our living space to make our experience here more tolerable. We finally have the whole tent to ourselves and are able to spread out and be a little more comfortable.

To recap the last couple of weeks, the flight over here was approximately 30 hours, with 5 stops before reaching our final destination one week after we departed Schofield Barracks. The Headquarters Base here at Ghazni is not as bad as we suspected. We have a large tent for the platoon where we have a decent amount of living space and just recently set up an entertainment area where we enjoy movies and video games. We'll have an office space set up in the near future. We have shower facilities where we are allowed two showers a week; these can be taken on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday. I won't explain our toilet situation, but the good news is we are one week away from having a building where at least we'll have some privacy. The dining facility is decent and food isn't half bad. The best part, we believe, is the MWR building where we have access to ten computers and ten telephones, all of which are free and can be used throughout the

day. For PT we have a dirt trail that goes around the base and a gym that has a few weights and machines.

Over the last week and a half that we've been here, our primary duty is to provide security to the base and send our Avenger teams to the other Infantry Companies to assist them with their security. You all should be proud of all the members of this platoon as they continue to do their job proudly and honorably. Know that everyone here sends their prayers and love for their respective loved one at home and we ask that you do the same for us.



2ND Platoon
1LT Miguel Rodriguez

From Oahu to Afghanistan With "Deuces Wild!"

By: SSG Lenhert

The trip seemed like an eternity, as we flew east over several miles of the globe.

After we said our "good byes" in J quad, we boarded the buses and moved to D quad and watched other soldiers say good bye. From there we filled the buses to their maximum capacities like cattle on a cattle car and moooved out (get it moo). Once we arrived at Hickam Air Force Base, all we could do is wait – similar to flying Space A, except we had a little more priority. Even though we waited several hours for our plane, it was worth it. There were TV monitors on the back of every headrest and eight channels to choose from. Now the food wasn't anything to brag about but they fed us more times on this flight than the average person eats in a week. And to my knowledge, on this flight, not one soldier required the use of a barf bag. The flight attendants, yes we had flight attendants (don't worry ladies, none of them were cute), they actually seemed happy to serve us

food and drinks or what ever else we needed. They even sang karaoke for us. It wasn't very good but it's the thought that counts, right? This flight made one stop in Newark, NJ to refuel before landing at an airfield in Kyrgyzstan. A country I had never heard of until we landed there. Here some of us stayed one day while others stayed five or six before reaching Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan. Now KAF, as we like to call it, is a little odd. Imagine you're watching the old TV show MASH and in the middle of their camp you have a coffee house, a very mini mall afghan-style, and a PX. That's KAF. After spending seven days in KAF we boarded helicopters for the flight to our new temporary home.

Orgun-E, small and truly in the middle of nowhere, we had arrived. Little by little everyone was flown in. As we settled in, we realized that it isn't so bad here. We have hot food and showers, a decent gym with a fridge, and power outlets in every room. There is Internet and phone use too. But what the soldiers can say on those phones is limited. So please don't pressure the soldiers to talk about their missions and what they actually do.

Even though a year seems like an eternity, provided that we stay busy it won't feel as long. There is one thing that helps pass the time, mail. It might not seem like much but receiving a letter or a package can make a world of difference. Thank you.



3rd Platoon
1LT Tim Bible

The first chapter of the Warhammers opens with our arrival to Afghanistan. What a wonderful country to visit. We enjoy the company of our host nation and their way of life. In this country we have seen very interesting things, such as children stacking rocks with no purpose. Although amusing, maybe this is how the mountains in this region

were formed.

We are all doing great. No one complains of the altitude sickness, which we thought might happen. The one illness that seems to already affect us all is homesickness.

Third platoon has been tasked to conduct operations as a maneuver platoon in order to provide security for all of our Infantry brothers moving from one place to another. We also provide security for all supplies moving to our Forward Operating Bases in our Area of Operation. Most of the time the soldiers are working 18 hours a day, so if you don't hear from them that is the reason. However, the morale is high and the team is in great spirits. We are excited to be here and to contribute to the ongoing mission and to the expulsion of the Taliban and Al'Qaida.



J.L.E.N.S. Section
2LT Cynthia Rankin

We flew out of Hawaii and made our first stop in Minneapolis, where we spent a few hours in a luxurious empty terminal. We boarded the plane and flew to Frankfurt, Germany (or so the pilots told us when we woke up), and spent another few hours in the small gift shop or trying to call home.

From there we went to Turkey, most of the soldiers tried to catch a few hours of sleep at the small holding area while the rest watched an AFN broadcast of sports news. Finally we embarked on the last leg of commercial jet travel to Kyrgyzstan, where we spent three days in the finest tents the Army has to offer, enjoyed Air Force food, and played spades while we waited for our flight to Afghanistan. Due to the wonderful weather conditions, our flight, which was scheduled to leave early Friday morning, was delayed shortly prior to the dinner meal. Luckily, all the soldiers had MRE's in their bags. Upon landing in

Afghanistan we grabbed our bags and went to our new tents and slept until morning. When we woke up we started taking down the old blimp and began the process of putting up our new towers. Everyone has been kept busy setting up the three sites around post, and getting used to the almost constant sunshine during the day. We've all been adjusting to our new environment quite well. Everyone back home is in our hearts and minds, while we count the days until our task is complete and we get to tell you about our journey back home.



Special Story
ADA Security Team

Well here we are, four ADA Soldiers doing some very different things than any of us thought we would be doing here in Afghanistan, positioned outside the zone where we thought we would be. We live at a small Forward Operation Base that, for all intensive purposes, does not exist. Our day starts just like most of the 1-62 Soldiers – we wake up at about 6 am local and eat breakfast. That is where the similarities end.

After we comb our beards and put on our t-shirts and jeans, we strap on our lightweight bulletproof vests and hip holsters, do some quick maintenance on our Toyota SUV's, and get ready to roll out into the local community. We meet with local government officials, tribal leaders, town elders, army generals, and even warlords – whoever is willing to help us by providing information. We roll into the cities in unmarked, unarmored, and hopefully unknown trucks.

We as the ADA element provide security for the Tactical HumanIntel Team, or THT for short, and act as guards for the meeting as it happens. We have to look for anything, from the little kids that run up to us wanting candy or the local people that offer us something to drink. We are

always on our toes. No one knows who that suicide bomber, Taliban spy, or that local that just doesn't like Americans will be.

There are only 7 or 8 of us out at a time and that isn't much if anyone really wanted to attack us. So, we have to rely on stealth, some very dark tinted windows, turbans to hide our faces, and speed to get there and back safely. On any given day we will go through one of the most populated cities in the country with both civilians and hostiles. Our mission's risk assessment is always high but we always make it back. We must be doing something right, because the intel that this team has gathered has been instrumental to the success of the whole CJTF 180 and we have only been here for 5 weeks.

We still have most of the year to go before we are back with our families and away from the fear that today is the day that we will get attacked. But we keep

doing it because risking our lives is a small price to pay for all the lives that could be saved with the information we gather.



Spot Light Battery Sponsors

Each month as we publish our little newsletter, our intent is to honor a few of our sponsors that have been so kind and generous in supporting our Soldiers. This is our humble way of saying "THANK YOU"

Many of you have written that you don't require thanks, or even a note to let you know your package arrived, but I have to tell you that we now consider you part of our unit, part of our extended ATTACK Family or "Ohana" as we say in Hawaii.

Please understand that we aren't choosing who we honor by

any other method than going down our "thank you" card list. Also, if you feel that you do not wish to be apart of this newsletter, we completely understand. To be taken off, please send an email to todd.schmidt1@us.army.mil or joy.schmidt@us.army.mil. If you don't have email, please send a note via mail to the return address listed on this newsletter.

This month we would like to recognize the following supporters:

***George A. from Cerritos, CO**

***Kerie, Cindy, and Kelly from Crystal Lake, IL**

***Kim from Grand Rapids, MI**

***Connie B. from Germantown, WI**

I know we sent a thank you note to tell you how much it means to all of us to be the recipient of your thoughtfulness and generosity, but this is our way of thanking you publicly. *For your privacy, we have not included your full names.